AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-7. (canceled)

8. (Currently amended): A device for the ~~automatic~~ hauling ~~of very~~ a long elongate ~~objects~~ object, comprising:

traction means ~~able to move~~ for undergoing translational movement ~~translationally~~ and ~~in their movement driving~~ for contacting and frictionally driving an elongate object ~~that is~~ to be hauled, ~~the drive being achieved by friction~~,

gripping means configured for automatically keeping the traction means and the elongate object ~~that is to be hauled~~ continuously in contact with one another~~, this being achieved~~ over at least a section of the elongate object, the gripping means being further configured for automatically adapting to variations in diameter of the elongate object and to be ~~and these gripping means being given a relative movement~~ relatively movable with respect to the ~~hauled~~ elongate object, in a direction opposite to the direction of hauling[[,]]; and

movement instigating means for coordinatingly actuating the traction means and the gripping means ~~in a coordinated manner~~;

~~the coordination means performing separate functions which collaborate in order to ensure continuous traction on the object that is to be hauled, and good distribution of stress over its surface, the entire device having a stationary position~~

wherein the traction means, gripping means and the movement instigating means perform separate functions that collaborate in order to ensure continuous traction on the elongate object that is to be hauled, without applying damaging pressure to the elongate object.

9. (Currently Amended) The device as claimed in claim 8, wherein said traction means comprise two running strips made of a material with a high coefficient of friction ~~good adhesion~~, the running strips being wound around two pulleys, the running strips and the pulleys

being configured that each strip contacts by a part of its surface with the elongate ~~these strips coming into contact with the~~ object that is to be hauled.

10. (Currently Amended) The device as claimed in claim 9, wherein said gripping means comprise a chassis ~~able to move rotationally~~being rotatably positioned about [[the]] an axis of traction of the elongate object, [[this]] the chassis comprising at least one belt ~~stretched between two pulleys and one of the strands of which is~~ helically wound around the elongate object that is to be hauled and around the portions of the running strips that are in contact with; the ends of the belt being connected to form a straight strand which passes through the grooves of two opposite pulleys ~~and around the object that is to be hauled so as to keep the running strips and the object that is to be hauled in contact~~.

11. (Currently Amended) The device as claimed in claim 10, wherein the chassis is driven to rotate around the elongate object to be hauled and to cause the belt to wind around the elongate object that is to be hauled and around the running strips via one of its ends ~~the relative movement of the gripping means is achieved by rotating the chassis, which causes the belt to wind around the object that is to be hauled and around the running strips via one of its ends~~, and to unwind simultaneously from the other end; the rotation of the belt causing the gripping means to undergo relative translation movement with respect to the hauled elongate object.

12. (Previously Presented) The device as claimed in claim 11, wherein said belt is made up of elastic fibers.

13. (Previously Presented) The device as claimed in claim 8, wherein said means for actuating the traction means and the gripping means are driven by a hydraulic motor.

14. (Previously Presented) The device as claimed in claim 8, wherein said means for actuating the traction means and the gripping means are driven by an electric motor.

15. (Previously Presented) The device as claimed in claim 8, wherein said means for actuating the traction means and the gripping means are driven by means of a cranking handle.

16. (Previously Presented) The device as claimed in claim 12, wherein said means for actuating the traction means and the gripping means are driven by a hydraulic motor.

17. (Previously Presented) The device as claimed in claim 12, wherein said means for actuating the traction means and the gripping means are driven by an electric motor.

18. (Previously Presented) The device as claimed in claim 12, wherein said means for actuating the traction means and the gripping means are driven by means of a cranking handle.